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ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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April 20, 1999

### BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable Albert Gore  
Vice President  
The White House - West Wing  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On April 15, 1999, the Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, which I chair, held a hearing on the Administration's actual and expected paperwork reduction accomplishments under the Paperwork Reduction Act. This letter seeks to clarify the nature of your involvement in paperwork reduction through your National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR), or under regulatory Executive Order 12866 which provides that you "shall coordinate the development and presentation of recommendations," or as Chair of the President's Management Council (PMC).

The hearing examined the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) mis-management of the paperwork burden imposed on Americans, OMB's falsely-claimed paperwork reduction accomplishments, 872 violations of law last year alone where agencies levied unauthorized paperwork burdens on the American people, and a woefully inadequate number of specific paperwork reduction initiatives identified by the Administration for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000. The bottom line was that paperwork by your Administration is expected to increase by 2.6 percent and 2.3 percent, respectively, in these two years. This is on top of the 2.3, 1.0, and 0.4 percent increases, respectively, during the past three years.

Given these problems, the General Accounting Office's representative at the hearing, Nye Stevens, Director of Federal Management and Workforce Issues, recommended that you become more involved by exercising your responsibility under Executive Order 12866. Quite frankly, the Administration's witnesses gave conflicting testimony about your role in paperwork reduction. The Administration's representative at the hearing, Deidre Lee, Acting Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, testified that you have not been involved in the Government's paperwork reduction efforts. However, the Department of Agriculture's Chief Information Officer Anne Thomson Reed testified that she understood that you had stressed the importance of paperwork reduction in meetings of the PMC.

Please clarify what has been your involvement in government-wide paperwork reduction and the involvement of your staff and other members of the NPR and PMC and their staffs. Once again, it appears that, when it comes to Federal paperwork, what should be down is actually going up and up. I believe that the public deserves substantially more paperwork reduction initiatives by the Clinton-Gore Administration. What steps will you take to improve the Administration's sorry record in this area? Perhaps then Americans would be subject to fewer, rather than more, Federal paperwork requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David M. McIntosh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David M. McIntosh

Chairman

Subcommittee on National Economic Growth,  
Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton  
The Honorable Dennis Kucinich